



Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Ltd.

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

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DATE: September 29, 2016

TO: PUBLIC HEARING

RE: BACK-FORTY-MINE PERMIT

The Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Ltd. strongly opposes the construction of this mine for many reasons:

Sulfide mining methods have an immediate danger of producing sulfuric acid which is extremely harmful to the surrounding environment. There are waste water issues, tailings issues, closure issues, etc. These have been studied and deemed of "minimal disturbance". However, these studies have still left many unanswered questions. Are the short term (16 years) disruptions worth generations full of risk? NO!

The Menominee River is a world class Smallmouth Bass fishery. Millions have been invested by both Wisconsin and Michigan in the recovery of critical Sturgeon habitat. Both of these are important employment generators that could be lost for decades. Besides, many other important river life depend on the cleanliness of this river.

More important than the above, this area is the origin and cultural center of the Menominee tribe. Much of their heritage and their cultural properties could be lost forever if the "expert" studies fail--and they do fail.

The Menominee River is one of the few pristine rivers left and should be protected. Too many times, short term financial gain is decided upon to the detriment /risk of future effects. This mine should be opposed.

Cordially,

Jerry Pasdo
President

Practice Catch & Release Fishing!